GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:253
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Ban on Polythene Bags
Nayak Shri B.V.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments have banned the use of polythene bags;
(b) if so, whether the use of Polythene bags is still going on in most of the States;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government is encouraging the use of paper bags for which a number of trees will have to be cut; and
(e) the details of the remedial measures the Government is taking to sort out the problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Yes, Sir. State Governments of Sikkim, Nagaland, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi, and the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and Chandigarh have banned use of plastic carry bags.

(b) & (c) The use of polythene bags above 40 micron thickness is permitted as per the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, and are in use in many States/ Union Territories.

(d) The Government has not prescribed any guidelines / legal frame work encouraging the use of paper bags.

(e) The Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 provide for plastic waste management system to be established by the municipal authorities for management of plastic waste in areas under their jurisdictions. The pigments and colourants used for manufacturing of plastic carry bags should conform to standards prescribed under the rules. No carry bags shall be made available free of cost by retailers to consumers. The municipal authorities are required to notify the minimum price for carry bags so as to minimize plastic waste generation. Any person manufacturing carry bags or engage in recycling of plastic waste is required to register with concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or Pollution Control Committee (PCC). The State Pollution Control Boards is responsible for enforcement of provisions of the abovementioned rules in respect of manufacture, registration and recycling. The Municipal authority is responsible for enforcement of provisions relating to use and sale of such bags in their jurisdiction. The Ministry has asked State Governments to ensure compliance the Rules. The Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions to all SPCBs and PCCs for immediate closure of units manufacturing plastic carry bags in violation of the Rules and to Secretaries-in charge of municipal authorities of each State and Union Territory to prohibit use and sale of sub-standard plastic carry bags.

Further, in order to make these Rules more effective, the Ministry has published draft Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2015 inviting public objections / suggestions. These rules propose to expand the jurisdiction of applicability; to increase the minimum thickness of poly bags to 50 microns; to bring in the responsibilities of producers and generators both; strengthen the role of the local government, industrial units and others in effective management of plastic waste.
*****